

CLAIMS

What is claimed:

1. A nipple insert for insertion into a sipper tube hole of a stopper of a cap assembly of a feed bottle containing a liquid, said nipple insert comprising:
a body having a curved insertion portion, a nipple flange, disposed adjacent to said curved insertion portion, and a nipple extension, disposed adjacent to said nipple flange;
said nipple extension having a nipple extension face; and
a feed hole defined, at least partially, in said nipple extension face;
wherein said nipple insert may be positioned in the sipper tube hole such that an animal may drink the liquid from said feed hole.
2. The nipple insert of claim 1, wherein the sipper tube hole has a first diameter, and said curved insertion portion has a second diameter, said second diameter being greater than said first diameter.
3. The nipple insert of claim 2, wherein said nipple flange has a third diameter, said third diameter being greater than said first and second diameters.
4. The nipple insert of claim 1, said nipple flange having a rear face dimensioned to abut the stopper of the cap assembly such that said nipple flange facilitates protection of a portion of the stopper proximate the sipper tube hole when an animal drinks from said nipple insert.

5. The nipple insert of claim 1, said nipple insert further comprising a nipple recess inner wall, said nipple recess inner wall defining, in part, a nipple recess, said nipple recess having a depth dimensioned to facilitate cleaning of said recess.

6. The nipple insert of claim 5, the nipple recess inner wall further defining an angle, said angle being dimensioned to facilitate cleaning of said recess.

7. The nipple insert of claim 1, wherein said nipple insert is formed of a single integral piece of material.

8. The nipple insert of claim 7, wherein said material is stainless steel.

9. The nipple insert of claim 1, wherein an animal may drink liquid from the feed hole when the bottle is disposed in a substantially vertical direction.

10. The nipple insert of claim 1, wherein the animal may drink substantially all of the liquid in the bottle from the feed hole.

11. The nipple insert of claim 1, wherein the bottle has water level indicators and the water level indicators may be read while the bottle, the stopper, the cap and said nipple insert are positioned to facilitate drinking by the animal.

12. The nipple insert of claim 1, said nipple insert having a length and a width, a ratio of said length to said width being in the range of 1.3:1 to 1.5 : 1.

13. A nipple insert comprising:

a body having a curved insertion portion, a nipple flange, disposed adjacent to
said curved insertion portion, and a nipple extension, disposed adjacent to
said nipple flange;
said nipple extension having a nipple extension face; and
a feed hole defined, at least partially, in said nipple extension face.

14. A feed bottle cap assembly comprising:

a cap having a curved side wall having an inner surface and an outer surface;
a circumferential flange extending from said curved side wall and defining an
opening in said cap;
a stopper dimensioned to seal said opening, said stopper having a hole therein,
said stopper being maintained in said cap by said circumferential flange;
and
a nipple insert dimensioned to be positioned within said hole and extending
through said opening, said nipple insert including;
a body having a curved insertion portion, a nipple flange, disposed adjacent to
said curved insertion portion, and a nipple extension, disposed adjacent to
said nipple flange;
said nipple extension having a nipple extension face; and
a feed hole defined, at least partially, in said nipple extension face;
wherein said nipple insert may be positioned in the sipper tube hole such that an
animal may drink the liquid from said feed hole.

15. A method of forming a nipple insert for insertion into a sipper tube hole
of a stopper of a cap assembly of a feed bottle containing a liquid, said method comprising:

forming a body having a curved insertion portion, a nipple flange, disposed adjacent to said curved insertion portion, and a nipple extension, disposed adjacent to said nipple flange;
said nipple extension having a nipple extension face; and
a feed hole defined, at least partially, in said nipple extension face;
wherein said nipple insert may be positioned in the sipper tube hole such that an animal may drink the liquid from said feed hole.

16. A method of assembling a feed bottle assembly comprising:
providing a cap having a curved side wall having an inner surface and an outer surface;
providing a circumferential flange extending from said curved side wall and defining an opening in said cap;
providing a stopper dimensioned to seal said opening, said stopper having a hole therein, said stopper being maintained in said cap by said circumferential flange; and
providing a nipple insert dimensioned to be positioned within said hole and extending through said opening, said nipple insert including;
providing a body having a curved insertion portion, a nipple flange, disposed adjacent to said curved insertion portion, and a nipple extension, disposed adjacent to said nipple flange;
said nipple extension having a nipple extension face; and
providing a feed hole defined, at least partially, in said nipple extension face;
wherein said nipple insert may be positioned in the sipper tube hole such that an animal may drink the liquid from said feed hole.